

## VENT APPARATUS WITH REPLACEABLE VENT COVER

### Technical Field

5 [0001] The invention pertains to vent apparatus which, together with their associated building aperture(s), provide a route for the exchange of air and/or other gases through a building envelope.

### Background

10 [0002] Typical buildings comprise building apertures which provide a route for exchange, ventilation, circulation and/or movement of gas through the building envelope. Such gases may comprise air or water vapour, for example. Buildings may have ventilation systems, which take in "fresh" air from outside of the building and expel "stale" air from inside the building. Fresh air may be taken into a building or  
15 stale air may be expelled from a building through one or more building apertures. Some buildings incorporate other systems and/or apparatus, such as air conditioning systems and forced air clothes dryers, which require gas exchange between the inside and outside of a building through building aperture(s).

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[0003] Buildings may comprise vent apparatus, each of which is associated with one or more building apertures. Such vent apparatus (or simply "vents") are typically in fluid communication with their one or more associated building aperture(s) to provide a means for gas  
25 exchange through the building envelope. Vents may provide a number of additional functions. For example, vents may comprise weatherproofing features to minimize the amount of moisture which flows into their associated building aperture(s). Vents may provide a more aesthetically pleasing terminus for their associated building  
30 aperture(s). Vents may also incorporate means to control the flow of gases and/or other materials through their associated building aperture(s). For example, vents may restrict the back-flow of expelled

gases or other external matter through their associated building aperture(s) and into the interior of the building.

[0004] There are many vent designs known in the art. For example:

- Canadian patent No. 2,062,907 (Sirjoo) discloses a vent incorporating an adjustable screw cap vent cover which extends outwardly from the external wall of a building and which is adjustable to permit air flow through the vent when the cap is open and to prevent air flow through the vent when the cap is closed; and
- Canadian patent No. 2,357,531 (Myint) shows a security air vent which allows for the flow of air, but which comprises a screen having S-shaped structural members for preventing the back flow of solids or liquids into the associated building aperture.

[0005] Vents may be installed in a variety of external building surfaces, such as the walls or the roof, for example. Vents are typically installed between the layers of a building's external surface, during construction and/or finishing. For example, vents may include one or more laterally and/or vertically extending flange(s) which are installed between an interior sheathing layer and an exterior siding layer of a building wall. The installation of vents between the interior and exterior layers of a building wall causes difficulties when the vent must be replaced (for example, when the vent is broken). Replacement of such vents requires dismantling one or more exterior layer(s) of the wall in a vicinity of the vent. Once the exterior wall layer(s) are removed from the vicinity of the vent, the damaged vent may be removed and/or replaced. After replacement of the vent, the exterior wall layer(s) must be rebuilt around the new vent. For this reason, vent replacement can be an expensive, arduous and time-consuming task.

**[0006]** Some vent apparatus comprise a vent cover which extends outwardly from the exterior surface of the building. Such vent covers may provide weatherproofing for the vent and its associated building aperture(s) and may also provide desirable aesthetics. Vents and vent covers are typically formed in a single unitary construction.

**[0007]** Vent covers are particularly susceptible to damage which may be caused, for example, by exposure to natural elements (i.e. weather and temperature), age, physical blows, etc. Because of the unitary construction of vents and vent covers, however, replacement of a damaged vent cover usually requires replacement of the entire vent apparatus, which requires dismantling and rebuilding of the building surface layer(s) as described above.

**[0008]** Vents and their associated building aperture(s) cause an interruption in the external surfaces of buildings. If a vent is not adequately sealed, moisture may intrude into or between the layers of the building surface, damaging the building surface over time and eventually resulting in the need for repair or replacement of the building surface. Moisture or other foreign material may also intrude past the vent, into the associated building aperture(s) and possibly into the building itself. For these reasons, there is a general desire to provide vents which deter inward movement of moisture and other foreign material through the vent and prevent or minimize the intrusion of moisture between building surface layers.

Summary of the Invention

**[0009]** A first aspect of the invention provides a vent, which together with one or more building apertures, provides a route for gas flow through a building surface. The vent comprises a base member  
5 having a vent aperture therethrough and a generally planar mounting flange on at least a portion of its perimeter. The base member may be mounted within a building surface such that at least a portion of the mounting flange extends between an internal building surface layer and one or more external building surface layers and the vent aperture is in  
10 fluid communication with the one or more building apertures. The vent also comprises a vent cover which is removably mountable to the base member when the base member is mounted within the building surface. The vent cover has a hood member which projects downwardly and outwardly from the base member for conveying moisture away from the  
15 vent aperture.

**[0010]** The base member may comprise an outwardly projecting intermediate base flange which is spaced apart from the vent aperture. The intermediate base flange may have a bottom drainage flange which  
20 projects outwardly and downwardly from beneath the vent aperture for conveying moisture outwardly past the outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

**[0011]** The intermediate base flange may have a pair of outwardly  
25 projecting side portions which extend upwardly from above the bottom drainage flange on either side of the vent aperture. The intermediate base flange may have an outwardly projecting upper portion which is located above the vent aperture and which extends between the two side portions. The upper portion of the intermediate base flange may  
30 comprise a transversely extending main section and a pair of wells. Each of the wells may extend downwardly and transversely from a

corresponding transverse end of the main section to meet with a corresponding one of the side portions at a location which is below the upwardmost end of the side portion. An upper surface of the hood member may fit under the upper portion of the intermediate base flange.

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**[0012]** When the base member is mounted within the building surface, the one or more external building surface layers may abut against the side portions and the upper portion of the intermediate base flange. The one or more external building surface layers may also abut against an undersurface of the bottom drainage flange.

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**[0013]** The bottom drainage flange may comprise two side edges located on either side of the vent aperture. The side portions of the intermediate base flange may extend upwardly from the bottom drainage flange at locations that are closer to the vent aperture than the side edges of the bottom drainage flange. Each side edge may have a dam which projects upwardly from the side edge for preventing moisture received on an upper surface of the bottom drainage flange from travelling transversely past the side edges of the bottom drainage flange. The dams may be aligned vertically with the side portions of the intermediate base flange.

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**[0014]** The vent cover may comprise an apertured grille which extends inwardly from an outer edge of the hood member. The vent may comprise one or more notched ribs for receiving an inward edge of the grille.

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**[0015]** The base member may comprise an interior base flange, an inner portion of which projects inwardly into the one or more building apertures. An outer portion of the interior base flange may project outwardly. The interior base flange may be located on a perimeter of the vent aperture.

**[0016]** The vent may include a damper member which is pivotally coupled to the base member. Preferably, the vent aperture is sized to prevent the damper member from pivoting therethrough. The damper member may be removably coupled to the base member or the vent cover.

**[0017]** The mounting flange of the base member may project from a transverse and/or vertical side of the vent aperture to form a transverse and/or vertical part of the perimeter of the base member.

**[0018]** Another aspect of the invention provides a base member for a vent, which together with one or more building apertures, provides a route for gas flow through a building surface. The base member comprises a generally planar mounting flange on at least a portion of its perimeter for mounting the base member within a building surface. When the base member is mounted within the building surface, at least a portion of the mounting flange extends between an internal building surface layer and one or more external building surface layers. The base member also comprises a vent aperture, which is in fluid communication with the one or more building apertures when the base member is mounted within the building surface. The base member also comprises a bottom drainage flange which projects outwardly and downwardly from beneath the vent aperture for conveying moisture outwardly past an outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

**[0019]** Another aspect of the invention provides a vent, which together with one or more building apertures, provides a route for gas flow through a building surface. The vent comprises a means for mounting a base member between an internal building surface layer and one or more external building surface layers. The base member includes a vent aperture for fluid communication with the one or more building apertures. The vent also comprises a means for covering and conveying moisture away from the vent aperture, which is removably mountable to the base member when the base member is mounted between the building surface layers.

**[0020]** The vent may comprise a means for conveying moisture from within the building surface outwardly past an outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

**[0021]** Another aspect of the invention provides a vent comprising a base member and a vent cover. The base member has a substantially planar mounting flange on at least a portion of its perimeter, which is capable of being received between layers of a building surface, and a vent aperture extending between inward and outward sides of the base member. The vent cover is removably coupleable to the outward side of the base member. The vent cover comprises a hood member disposed to shield the vent aperture.

**[0022]** Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method for installing a vent within a building surface to provide fluid communication through one or more building apertures in the building surface. The method involves mounting a base member to an internal building surface layer such that a vent aperture in the base member is in fluid communication with the one or more building apertures. After mounting the base member, one or more external building surface layers

are installed onto the internal building surface layer, such that the one or more external building surface layers overlap a portion of the of the base member. After installing the external building surface layer(s), a vent cover is removably mounted to the base member, the vent cover  
5 extending downwardly and outwardly from above the vent aperture to a location that is outside of the outermost one of the one or more external building surface layers.

**[0023]** Further aspects of the invention, features of specific  
10 embodiments of the invention and features and applications of the invention are described below.

Brief Description of the Drawings

**[0024]** In drawings which depict non-limiting embodiments of the  
15 invention:

Figure 1 is an isometric view of a vent according to one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is an elevated plan view of the back of the vent of Figure 1;

20 Figure 3 is an elevated plan view of the bottom of the vent of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an elevated plan view of the top of the vent of Figure 1;

25 Figure 5 is an elevated plan view of the right side of the vent of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is an elevated plan view of the front of the vent of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is an exploded isometric view of the vent of Figure 1;

30 Figure 8 is an elevated plan view of the front of the vent of Figure 1 with the vent cover removed;



Figure 9 is an isometric view of the vent of Figure 1 with the vent cover removed;

Figure 10 is an elevated plan view of the right side of the vent of Figure 1 with the vent cover removed;

5           Figure 11 is a cross-sectional view of the vent of Figure 1 installed between the layers of an external building wall;

Figure 12 is an isometric view of a vent apparatus according to an alternate embodiment of the invention;

10           Figure 13 is an exploded isometric view of the vent apparatus of Figure 12;

Figure 14 is an isometric view of a vent apparatus according to another alternative embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 15 is an exploded isometric view of the vent apparatus of Figure 14.

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#### Detailed Description

[0025]       Throughout the following description, specific details are set forth in order to provide a more thorough understanding of the invention. However, the invention may be practised without these  
20   particulars. In other instances, well known elements have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the invention. Accordingly, the specification and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative, rather than a restrictive, sense.

25   [0026]       The invention disclosed herein relates to vents which, together with their associated building aperture(s), provide a route for the exchange of air or other gases through a building envelope. A building aperture may be connected to a conduit for transporting such gases. A conduit may comprise any aperture, duct, passageway, flume,  
30   spout, hose, tube, pipe, channel or other means of transporting fluids. Typical examples of conduits include, but are not limited to, air ducts

for moving air within a building's heating, cooling or ventilation systems and exhaust hoses from forced-air clothes dryers and/or air conditioning systems.

5    **[0027]**        Vents according to preferred embodiments of the invention  
comprise: a base including a transversely and/or vertically extending,  
substantially planar flange which may be installed between the layers of  
a building wall; at least one outwardly extending flange for diverting to  
the outdoors any moisture which may be moving downward within the  
10 layers of the building wall; and a removeable vent cover. The  
construction of the vent permits the vent cover to be replaced without  
dismantling the external layer(s) of the building wall. The vent cover  
extends downwardly and outwardly to deter the entrance of moisture  
and other foreign material into the associated building aperture(s). The  
15 vent may also comprise a damper member for restricting the flow of gas  
and other materials.

**[0028]**        Figures 1 through 11 depict a vent **11** according to a  
particular embodiment of the invention. As shown most effectively in  
20 the exploded view of Figure 7, vent **11** comprises: a vent cover **12**, a  
damper member **13** and a base **14**. Vent cover **12** and damper member  
**13** are removably mounted to base **14**. Base **14** comprises a vent  
aperture **26** which permits the movement of gas through building  
aperture **23** (Figure 11). Preferably, vent **11** and its components are  
25 made of plastic, but those skilled in the art will appreciate that vent **11**  
and/or some of its components may be constructed from a wide variety  
of suitable materials including suitable metals, plastics and the like.

**[0029]** Figure 11 depicts vent **11** installed in a vertical building wall **22** having an associated building aperture **23**. The embodiments of the invention described herein are installed in building walls; accordingly, a number of directional conventions are used to clarify this description:

- (i) “upward”, “upwardly”, “upwardmost” and similar words refer to a direction extending along wall **22** as indicated by arrow **50** (Figure 11);
- (ii) “downward”, “downwardly”, “downwardmost” and similar words refer to a direction extending along wall **22** as indicated by arrow **52** (Figure 11);
- (iii) “vertical”, “vertically” and similar words refer to either of the upward or downward directions;
- (iv) “transverse”, “transversely”, “side”, “sideways” and similar words refer to either direction that extends along wall **22** in a direction orthogonal to the upward and downward directions as indicated by arrows **54A**, **54B** (Figure 1);
- (v) “outward”, “outwardly”, “outwardmost” and similar words refer to a direction that extends away from wall **22** towards an exterior of the building as indicated by arrow **56** (Figure 11); and,
- (vi) “inward”, “inwardly”, “inwardmost” and similar words refer to a direction that extends away from wall **22** towards an interior of the building as indicated by arrow **58** (Figure 11).

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that wall **22** need not be strictly vertical and that the directional words used in this description should not be interpreted narrowly.

- [0030]** Vent cover **12** comprises a hood **15** and a grille **16** which may be formed in a unitary construction or which may be separate components that are connected to one another. Hood **15** comprises a hood aperture **29**. Vent cover **12** is removably connected to base **14** such that hood aperture **29** is in fluid communication with vent aperture **26** and building aperture **23** (Figure 11). In the illustrated embodiment, hood aperture **29** is larger than vent aperture **26**. Vent cover flange **17** extends around the upper and side edges of hood aperture **29**.
- [0031]** As shown in Figures 6 and 7, vent cover flange **17** may incorporate a number of spaced apart apertures **18**, through which screws or other fasteners (not shown) may be inserted to removably mount vent cover **12** to base **14**. Preferably, the fasteners used to mount vent cover **12** to base **14** are non-permanent to facilitate removal of vent cover **12** from base **14**. Vent cover flange **17** may incorporate portions **17A** which project inwardly toward base **14**. When vent cover **12** is mounted to base **14**, vent cover flange portions **17A** preferably form a snug fit with an inner transverse surface intermediate base flange **21** (see description below). Vent cover flange **17** may help to channel moisture away from vent **11** and may also provide structural reinforcement for vent **11**.

- [0032]** Alternative embodiments of the invention may comprise alternative means for removably mounting vent cover **12** to base **14**. For example, vent cover **12** may be removably connected to base **14** by other types of removable fasteners, such as staples, nails, rivets or the like. Vent cover **12** may be removably connected to base **14** with a pressure fit or a "snap-together" connection, wherein a male member on one of vent cover **12** or base **14** "snaps" into and is removably held in a corresponding female member on the opposing one of vent cover **12** and base **14**. For example, vent cover **12** may include a member that

projects (i.e. “snaps”) into vent aperture **26**, so as to hold vent cover **12** in place relative to base **14**.

**[0033]** Hood **15** preferably extends outwardly and downwardly  
5 from base **14** to shelter building aperture **23**, vent aperture **26** and hood  
aperture **29** from the elements. In the illustrated embodiment, hood **15**  
comprises a pair of sidewalls **15A**, **15B**, which extend from cover  
flange **17**, and a curved top portion **25**, which extends from cover flange  
17 and arcs outwardly and downwardly between the curved edges of  
10 sidewalls **15A**, **15B**.

**[0034]** Moisture, which may collect on the top of the convex  
curved surface of top portion **25**, is directed downwardly and outwardly  
away from building aperture **23**, vent aperture **26**, and hood aperture  
15 **29**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that hood **15** may have other  
shapes. For example, a hood may have a downwardly and outwardly  
angled and/or curved shape which performs the same function of  
directing moisture downwardly and outwardly away from building  
aperture **23**, vent aperture **26**, and hood aperture **29**.

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**[0035]** Grille **16** extends transversely between opposing edges of  
sidewalls **15A**, **15B** and extends inwardly from an outer edge of top  
portion **25**. An inner edge of grill **16** may be held in place on base **14**  
by notches **47** in ribs **41** (see description below). In the illustrated  
25 embodiment, grille **16** comprises a grid of intercrossing bars **28** which  
defines a plurality of apertures **27**. Apertures **27** permit the passage of  
gas through building aperture **23**, vent aperture **26**, and hood aperture  
**29**, while deterring the entry other larger objects, such as leaves and  
animals, for example. Grille **16** may be provided by a number of  
30 alternative designs. For example, grille **16** may comprise a screen of  
fine mesh, a plate having several apertures therein, or any other design

that permits the passage of gas. Grille **16** is not a required feature of vent **11**. Hood **15** may alternatively comprise an aperture formed by sidewalls **15A**, **15B**, the outer edge of top portion **25** and base **14**.

5   **[0036]**       In the illustrated embodiment, damper member **13** is provided between vent aperture **26** and hood aperture **29** for controlling the flow of gas and/or other material therethrough. For example, damper member **13** may restrict the inward flow of gases and/or other material from hood aperture **29** through vent aperture **26** and into  
10   building aperture **23**. Damper member **13** may be implemented in a wide variety of different forms. In the illustrated embodiment, damper member **13** comprises a flap **30** which is pivotally coupled to base **14** through a pair of hinge assemblies **31**. Damper member **13** may comprise a different number of hinge assemblies **31**. Hinge assemblies  
15   **31** permit the pivotal movement of flap **30** about hinge axis **32** (see Figure 9). Flap **30** is preferably larger in cross-sectional area than vent aperture **26**. Damper member **13** permits outward flow of gas from vent aperture **26** through hood aperture **29** when positive pressure of gas coming from vent aperture **26** causes flap **30** to pivot outwardly through  
20   hood aperture **29**. However, damper member **13** restricts the inward flow of gas and other material from hood aperture **29** through vent aperture **26**, because flap **30** is too large to pivot through vent aperture **26**.

25   **[0037]**       Each hinge assembly **31** preferably comprises a "snap-together" hinge structure made up of a damper hinge member **19** that extends from an edge of flap **30** and a base hinge member **20** that extends from base member **14**. In the illustrated embodiment, damper hinge member **19** comprises a portion **19A** that extends in the direction  
30   of hinge axis **32**. Portion **19A** may be cylindrical in shape. Base hinge member **20** is preferably semi-tubular in shape, such that portion **19A** of

damper hinge member **19** may "snap" into loose fit engagement with semi-tubular base hinge member **20** for pivotal motion therein.

**[0038]** The "snap-together" implementation of hinge assemblies **31** shown in the illustrated embodiment allows for simple removal and/or replacement of damper member **13**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that hinge assemblies **31** may be implemented with a wide variety of alternative hinge assemblies or alternative pivotal joint mechanisms. For example, hinge assemblies **31** may be implemented using conventional hinges which are mounted to both base **14** and flap **30** via screws, rivets, staples, nails or other fasteners. Preferably, the mechanisms used to implement hinge assemblies **31** permit the easy removal of damper member **13** from base **14** and/or easy replacement of damper member **13**.

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**[0039]** Base **14** comprises an interior base flange **33**, which is located around a perimeter of vent aperture **26**, an intermediate base flange **21**, which surrounds and is spaced apart from interior base flange **33**, and a mounting flange **34**, which extends vertically and transversely to form a perimeter of base **14** and to provide a means for mounting vent **11** to a building surface. Base **14** may also comprise a plurality of fastener holes **40** positioned at spaced apart locations between interior base flange **33** and intermediate base flange **21** for receiving fasteners (not shown). Such fasteners may be used to mount vent cover **12** to base **14**, as described above.

**[0040]** As shown in Figures 1, 7, 8 and 9, mounting flange **34** is substantially planar and extends vertically and transversely to form a perimeter of base **14**. Mounting flange **34** preferably comprises a plurality of apertures **35** which penetrate mounting flange **34** at spaced apart locations. Suitable fasteners (e.g. screw, rivets, nails, staples or

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the like) may be inserted through apertures **35** to mount vent **11** to or between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22**. Fasteners used to mount base **14** to or between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22** may not require apertures **35** and may simply be driven through mounting flange **34** and into internal wall layer **22A** and/or into external wall layer **22B**.

**[0041]** In the illustrated embodiment, base **14** also comprises a plurality of "blind holes" **48** at spaced apart locations between intermediate base flange **21** and interior base flange **33**. Blind holes **48** represent particular locations where the thickness of base **14** is reduced so that fasteners may be more easily driven through base **14** and into internal wall layer **22A** and/or into external wall layer **22B** to mount base **14** between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22**.

**[0042]** Those skilled in the art will appreciate that other techniques may be used to mount base **14** to or between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22**. Such alternative mounting techniques may include glue, sealant or "snap-together" fittings wherein a portion of base **14** is sized for a snap-together fit with building aperture **23**, for example. When mounted according to any of these techniques, the substantially planar and vertically and transversely extending profile of mounting flange **34** allows mounting flange **34** to extend between and substantially parallel to layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22**.

**[0043]** Interior base flange **33** preferably forms a perimeter of vent aperture **26**. When vent **11** is mounted to or within building wall **22**, an inner portion **36** of interior base flange **33** may extend inwardly into building aperture **23** (Figure 11). An outer portion **37** of interior base flange **33** extends outwardly towards vent cover **12**. In the illustrated embodiment, outer portion **37** of interior base flange **33** is sized and



shaped to be just smaller than flap **30** of damper member **13**, so as to prevent damper member **13** from pivoting inwardly about hinge axis **32**.

**[0044]** Intermediate base flange **21** surrounds and is spaced apart  
5 from interior base flange **33**. Intermediate base flange **21** projects  
outwardly from base **14** and functions to move moisture away from vent  
aperture **26** and out from within building wall **22**. In the illustrated  
embodiment, intermediate base flange **21** comprises an upper portion  
10 **38**, a pair of side portions **39A**, **39B** and a downwardly sloping bottom  
drainage flange **24**, all of which extend outwardly from base **14**. In the  
illustrated embodiment, side portions **39** extend further outwardly than  
upper portion **38** and bottom drainage flange extends outwardly even  
further still. Upper portion **38** of intermediate base flange **21** may  
15 comprise a downwardly indented well **45** on each of its sides and side  
portions **39** of intermediate base flange **21** may extend upwardly past the  
level of wells **45**. Wells **45** may help to prevent moisture running  
transversely on upper portion **38** from traveling transversely past side  
portions **39** and into wall **22**.

20 **[0045]** Bottom drainage flange **24** may comprise a pair of dams **42**,  
which extend upwardly from its side edges, and an outer drip lip **43**,  
which extends more sharply downwardly at its outer edge. As shown in  
the illustrated embodiment, dams **42** are preferably located at the side  
edges of bottom drainage flange **24**. In alternative embodiments, dams  
25 **42** may have other transverse locations. For example, dams **42** may be  
located between side portions **39** of intermediate base flange **21** and the  
side edges of bottom drainage flange **24** or dams **42** may be vertically  
aligned with side portions **39** of bottom drainage flange **24**. In further  
alternative embodiments, the side edges of bottom drainage flange **24**  
30 may be vertically aligned with side portion **39** of bottom drainage flange  
**24**.

[0046] Base **14** may also comprise one or more ribs **41** which extend outwardly from base **14** between bottom drainage flange **24** and interior base flange **33**. Ribs **41** may comprise notches or similar cut-outs **47** which receive an inner edge of grill **16** when vent cover **12** is mounted to base **14**.

[0047] As shown in Figure 11, vent **11** is preferably installed between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22** during the building's construction. Vent **11** is installed in a location where vent aperture **26** is in fluid communication with building aperture **23** to provide gas flow between the interior and exterior of the building. Base **14** is preferably mounted to internal wall layer **22A** using fasteners which project through apertures **35** in mounting flange **34** and into internal wall layer **22A**. Internal wall layer **22A** may be a sheathing layer, for example. Preferably, when base **14** is mounted in this manner, inner portion **36** of interior base flange **33** extends inwardly into building aperture **23**, such that building aperture **23** surrounds the peripheral edges of inner portion **36**.

[0048] After mounting base **14** to internal wall layer **22A**, the building may then be finished by applying one or more external wall layer(s) **22B** over the outside of internal wall layer **22A**. Such external wall layer(s) **22B** may comprise vinyl siding, wood siding or stucco, for example. External wall layer(s) **22B** are preferably cut, such that, when installed, they extend over mounting flange **34** and abut against intermediate base flange **21**. More specifically, external wall layer(s) **22B** may abut against the outer transverse surfaces of side portions **39** and the upper surface of upper portion **38** and against an undersurface **44** of bottom drainage flange **24**. Bottom drainage flange **24** is sized such that after the installation of external wall layer(s) **22B**, bottom

drainage flange **24** extends outwardly past the outermost external wall layer **22B**.

**[0049]** Interior base flange **33**, side portions **39**, upper portions **38**  
5 and wells **45** of intermediate base flange **21** and vent cover flange **17**  
help to direct moisture out from within wall **22**, away from building  
aperture **23** and toward bottom drainage flange **24**. Moisture received  
on the top and side portions of interior base flange **33** may be conveyed  
along interior base flange **33** and downwardly to bottom drainage flange  
10 **24**. Moisture received on the surfaces of side portions **39** of  
intermediate base flange **21** may also be directed downwardly along side  
portions **39** to bottom drainage flange **24**. When moisture is received on  
upper portion **38** of intermediate base flange **21**, it may be directed  
outwardly onto curved top portion **25** of hood **15** and/or transversely in  
15 either direction along upper portion **38** until it reaches one of wells **45**.  
Once received in wells **45**, such moisture may be directed outwardly to  
vent cover flange **17**, which conveys the moisture downwardly to  
bottom drainage flange **24**. Any moisture which may leak between vent  
cover flange **17** and side portions **39** of intermediate base flange **21** may  
20 be directed downwardly to bottom drainage flange **24** on an inside  
transverse surface of side portions **39**.

**[0050]** Bottom drainage flange **24** extends outwardly past  
outermost wall layer **22B** to provide a mechanism for removing  
25 moisture from within building wall **22** and directing the moisture away  
from building aperture **23**. Moisture may be directed to bottom  
drainage flange as described above or may be received directly on  
bottom drainage flange **24**. Once received on bottom drainage flange  
**24**, moisture is directed downwardly and outwardly with gravity to the  
30 outside of building wall **22**. Dams **42** prevent moisture from escaping  
transversely from the sides of bottom drainage flange **24** and outer drip

lip **43** provides a drip edge to ensure that water droplets do not accumulate on bottom drainage flange **24**.

**[0051]** Damper member **13** and vent cover **12** may be installed during construction or, preferably, after construction of wall **22** is completed. Damper member **13** may be pivotally attached to base **14** by snapping portions **19A** of damper hinge members **19** into corresponding semi-tubular shaped base hinge members **20**, as described above. Vent cover **12** is preferably mounted to base **14** using a plurality of fasteners which extend through apertures **18** and into fastener holes **40** of base **14**. As discussed above, vent cover **12** may be mounted to base **14** using other mechanisms, such as snap-together fittings.

**[0052]** Vent **11** provides a number of advantages over the prior art. Vent **11** may be installed between layers **22A**, **22B** of building wall **22** as described above. If vent cover **12** or damper member **13** requires replacement (for example, because the component has broken), then vent cover **12** or damper member **13** may be removed from base **14** and replaced without having to remove base **14** from wall **22** and without having to dismantle any part of wall **22**. In addition, vent **11** comprises bottom drainage flange **24** and a number of associated features which provide a mechanism for removing moisture from within building wall **22** and directing the moisture away from building aperture **23**.

**[0053]** Figures 12 and 13 depict a vent **11'** according to an alternative embodiment of the invention. Vent **11'** comprises many features which are the same or similar to the features of vent **11** depicted in Figures 1-11. The features of vent **11'** are shown in Figures 12 and 13 with reference numbers corresponding to similar features of vent **11**, except that the reference numerals for vent **11'** (Figures 12 and 13) are followed by a "prime" symbol (').

[0054] As shown in Figures 12 and 13, vent **11'** comprises a base **14'**, a damper member **13'** and a vent cover **12'**. Vent cover **12'** and damper member **13'** are removably mounted to base **14'**, which comprises a vent aperture **26'**. Vent **11'** is shaped differently than vent **11** and comprises a round vent aperture **26'** and a round damper member **13'**. Round-shaped vent aperture **26'** and the round-shaped interior base flange **33'** facilitate use of vent **11'** with a round-shaped building aperture (not shown). In other respects, vent **11'** is substantially similar to vent **11**, comprising substantially similar components which function in a substantially similar manner. The components and functionality of vent **11'** are not described further herein.

[0055] Figures 14 and 15 depict a vent **11"** according to another alternative embodiment of the invention. Vent **11"** comprises many features which are the same or similar to the features of vent **11** depicted in Figures 1-11. The features of vent **11"** are shown in Figures 14 and 15 with reference numbers corresponding to similar features of vent **11**, except that the reference numerals for vent **11"** (Figures 14 and 15) are followed by a "double prime" symbol (**"**). Vent **11"** of Figures 14 and 15 is substantially similar to vent **11**, except that side portions **39"** and upper portion **38"** of intermediate base flange **21"** extend outwardly by the same amount and intermediate base flange **21"** does not include wells **45**. Moisture received on upper portion **38"** of intermediate base flange **21"** may be directed transversely to side portions **39"**, where it may be conveyed downwardly to bottom drainage flange **24"**. In other respects, vent **11"** is substantially similar to vent **11**, comprising substantially similar components which function in a substantially similar manner. The components and functionality of vent **11"** are not described further herein.

**[0056]** As will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing disclosure, many alterations and modifications are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. For example:

- 5     •     Damper member **13** is not a necessary feature of the invention. Vent cover **12** and base **14** may, when mounted to one another, provide sufficient weatherproofing and prevent entry of foreign material into associated building aperture **23**.
- 10    •     As demonstrated by the embodiments described above, the shape of the vent of the present invention may be changed, for example to suit the associated building aperture(s), to suit the angle of the building wall within which it is mounted, and/or to suit the environmental conditions in which it is deployed.
- 15    •     The embodiments described above are preferably mounted between the layers of a building wall. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that by changing the shape of certain components, such as the vent cover, the vent of the present invention may be implemented on other building surfaces, such as a roof, for example.

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**[0057]** Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.